(b) The measures proposed to be taken to create policy environment in these areas so as to ensure a rapid growth of human development with special reference of the rural and the informal sectors will be spelt out in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, which is scheduled during the current year.

Income limit for determining BPL

1002. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPL families in the country and the population thereof;

(b) the existing income limit for determining BPL category and the year when this existing income limit had been in force;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance this income limit in view of the increase of the price-index;

(d) if so, the steps Government contemplate in changing the income limit; and

(e) the details of the benefits that BPL families deserve to avail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission does not estimate the number of BPL families as such. Using individual as a unit, the Planning Commission estimates the population living below poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys rounds on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). Based on the data from this round, the number of persons living below the poverty line is estimated as 260.2 million in 1999-2000, of which 193.2 million and 67 million live in rural and urban areas, respectively.

(b) and (c) The monthly per capita expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas have been identified as the

poverty lines at national level at 1973-74 prices. Following the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, state-specific poverty lines as against a national poverty line for rural and urban areas, are being used to estimate the number of people living below poverty line. These poverty lines are updated for price rise in subsequent years using State specific Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) for rural households and State specific Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPIIW) for urban households. The monetary values of these poverty lines in 1999-2000 for different States are given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) In view of (b) and (c) above, do not arise.

(e) A number of programmes/schemes have been introduced by the Government from time to time to improve the conditions of the people living below the poverty line in rural and urban areas. These include, *inter-alia*; (i) Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); (ii) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); (iii) Rural Housing–Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY); (iv) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); which consists of two special schemes, namely Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) and Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP). There is also a special component in USEP Programme called Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA); (v) Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) for urban areas; and (vi) National Slum Development Programme (NSDP).

Statement

State-Specific Poverty Lines in 1999-2000
(Rs. per capita per month)

No.	State	Rural	Urban
1.	Andhra Pradesh	262.94	457.40
2.	Assam	365.43	343.99
3.	Bihar	333.07	379.78
4.	Gujarat	318.94	474.41
5.	Haryana	362.81	420.20
6.	Himachal Pradesh	367.45	420.20

No.	State	Rural	Urban
7.	Karnataka	309.59	511.44
8.	Kerala	374.79	477.06
9.	Madhya Pradesh	311.34	481.65
10.	Maharashtra	318.63	539.71
11.	Orissa	323.92	473.12
12.	Punjab	362.68	388.15
13.	Rajasthan	344.03	465.92
14.	Tamil Nadu	307.64	475.60
15.	Uttar Pradesh	336.88	416.29
16.	West Bengal	350.17	409.22
17.	Delhi	362.68	505.45
	All India#	327.56	454.11

#The poverty line (implicit) at all-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons and the poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all-India level is obtained as the weighted average of the State-wise poverty ratio.

New policy for construction of National Highways

†1003. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the present policy regarding the selection and construction of National Highways including Golden Quadrilateral Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the draft of the new policy has been prepared;

(c) whether the matter of connecting the States, which are not connected with the National Capital with six-laned highways, would be considered by the Government; and

(d) if so, by when the road connecting Dehradun, the Capital of Uttaranchal, would be converted into the six-lane road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.